

IMAGE FORMATION WITH A FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF PASSES

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ABSTRACT

A method of printing with a flexible number of passes is provided. Print data may be obtained. The print data may have a content defined by data elements corresponding to a pattern of dots of a colorant. It may be determined if at least one constraint on distribution of the print data exists so that forming the pattern in only one pass is precluded. If the at least one constraint exists, then subsets of the data elements, corresponding to interspersed sub-patterns of the pattern, may be distributed to a number of pass assignments. The number and the subsets may be determined by the content of the print data and the at least one constraint. The colorant may be delivered to overlapping regions of a print medium with passes performed according to the pass assignments to form the pattern.